

## Learning Circle Preschool Parent Discussion Schedule 2006-2007 (remaining)

### **Thursday January 11, 9-10:30 AM**

#### ***Positive Parenting with a Focus on Communication***

*Thinking about the ways we communicate with our children is central to positive parenting. In this workshop we'll talk about:*

- *Basic principles behind positive parenting techniques*
- *Active Listening (what it is and how to do it)*
- *How the wording we use can help assure that we're heard by our children*
- *Issues and concerns raised by participants*

### **Wednesday January 31, 9-10:30 AM**

#### ***An Anti-Bias Curriculum for Young Children***

*Children are collecting information, impressions, and attitudes about differences (whether in relation to gender, ethnicity, learning style, class, or any other attribute) at an early age, whether or not we adults are talking directly about these differences to our children. How can we encourage children to value diversity and find common ground? We'll talk about these issues in the context of general development, discuss features of an anti-bias curriculum in general and discuss specific examples from the classrooms at Learning Circle Preschool.*

### **Wednesday February 7<sup>th</sup> 7:30-9 PM**

#### ***Kindergarten Information Night with presentations on the Kindergarten Program and Kindergarten Curriculum***

*What are some of the components of a high quality kindergarten program? What are some considerations in determining each child's "readiness" for kindergarten? This discussion will try to address general questions parents raise about the kindergarten year, as well as share specific information about the kindergarten program schedule and curriculum at Learning Circle Preschool.*

### **Wednesday March 14, 9 -10:30 AM**

#### ***Friendship and Social Development***

*Many parents ask their child's teacher "Does my child have a friend at school?" You may be thinking about...*

- *What friendship means to children at various stages of development*
- *How adults can support children's social development*
- *What skills children need to develop as they learn to "get along with" other children*
- *What children mean by the words they use as they talk about other children they define as "friends"*
- *Features of successful playdates*

*Join a discussion with other parents about these and any other questions you may have about social development*

### **Wednesday March 28<sup>th</sup>, 9-10:30 AM**

#### ***Assessing Progress in School: Looking for clues about development in children's work***

*Parents often wonder how they can collect information about the specifics of a child's day at school. In this discussion we'll talk about:*

- *Ways to look at the work children bring home as a source of information about school and learning*
- *Ways to use room displays and activities as an indicator of your child's experiences*
- *Effective communication with your child's teachers, both informally and at conferences*
- *Ways to use information about the whole class to guide conversations with your child about school*
- *Indicators of growth and development that can help you plan future programs for your child*
- *Portfolios*

*Joining this discussion may help parents focus on how to take best advantage of spring conferences with teachers.*

### **Wednesday April 11, 8:30-10:30 AM**

#### ***Supporting Mathematics in Early Childhood***

*Parents often wonder about what mathematical experiences are most appropriate for young children. Included in this discussion will be:*

- *An opportunity to observe classroom activities that focus on math literacy*
- *Discussion of ways adults can encourage mathematical thinking*
- *Age appropriate math skills (math is more than counting!)*
- *Math games to share at home*
- *An opportunity to ask questions and share perspectives*

### **Thursday May 10, 9-10:30 AM**

#### ***Physical Development in Early Childhood: What Young Children Need***

*In this discussion we'll talk about:*

- *Why a focus on gross motor development is crucial to overall development and to school "readiness"*
- *Foundations and supports for fine motor development*
- *Positive approaches to movement education for preschoolers*
- *The values of sensory experiences in early childhood*
- *Levels of proficiency as children develop: what to expect*
- *Specific experiences of value at home and in school*

### **Wednesday May 23, 7:30-9 PM**

*To be announced*